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Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01390 180700Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------011580 190530Z /11
R 171334Z MAY 78
FM AMECONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0959
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1390

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, PLO, LE, IS, XF
SUBJECT: UNIFIL MANDATE INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT

REF: STATE 124858

1. REFTEL NOT RECEIVED UNTIL AFTER MY MAY 17 MEETING WITH SIILASVUO. HOWEVER, DURING TOUR D'HORIZON, THIS SUBJECT CAME UP.

2. UNNY HAD TAKEN POSITION UNIFIL COULD PREVENT ENTRY ONLY OF "ARMED HOSTILE ELEMENTS." THIS WOULD, OF COURSE, PERMIT UNARMED PALESTINIANS TO PASS THROUGH UN LINES AND TO SEEK OUT ARMS CACHES WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY STILL EXIST IN SOUTH LEBANON.

3. SIILASVUO SAID HE AND ERSKINE HAD AGREED UNIFIL WOULD ALSO TURN BACK KNOWN OR SUSPECTED PLO MEMBERS, EVEN IF UNARMED.

4. NEPALESE, FOR EXAMPLE, WERE DOING A GOOD JOB. NEPALESE COMMANDER HAD ESTABLISHED GOOD RELATIONS WITH MUKHTARS IN HIS AREA AND HAD BEEN FURNISHED WITH LISTS OF LEBANESE
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PAGE 02 JERUSA 01390 180700Z

WHO HAD FLED. WHEN SOMEONE TRIED TO RETURN, COMMANDER ESTABLISHED WHETHER PERSON'S NAME WAS ON LIST BEFORE PERMITTING ENTRY.

5. EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN UNIFIL AND SOUTH LEBANESE WAS CITED BY SIILASVUO IN CASE OF 60 SURROUNDED ARMED PALESTINIANS. BECAUSE UNIFIL WAS PRESENT,

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

VILLAGERS HAD REFUSED TO GIVE FOOD TO INFILTRATORS. MANY
OF LATTER HAD BECOME WEAK AS RESULT AND HAD EXFILTRATED.

6. SILLASVUO ADMITTED THAT AT NIGHT THERE WAS A
PROBLEM OF DETECTING INFILTRATORS BUT HE WAS OBVIOUSLY
PROUD OF THE FACT THAT UNFIL WAS MAKING A DETERMINED EFFORT
TO STOP TROUBLEMAKERS.

7. WE WILL ALSO SEEK JUDGMENT OF QUALIFIED US UNMO.
NEWLIN

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NNN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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